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Claim 1 (Canceled). A method for remotely shopping and ordering merchandise identified by digital barcode numbers electronically using a terminal device comprising the steps of: electronically collecting a plurality of barcode numbers with a data collection device communicatively coupled to the terminal; electronically connecting to a shopper assistance portal using a terminal device, the shopper assistance portal maintaining information relating to a plurality of merchants and a plurality of product offered by the plurality of merchants; downloading the information relating to a plurality of merchants and a plurality of products offered by the plurality of merchants to the terminal device from the shopper assistance portal and saving the information in a memory associated with the terminal device; creating a potential order in the form of an active list of selected products from the information relating to a plurality of merchants and a plurality of products offered by the plurality of merchants saved in the memory; uploading the active list of selected products to the shopper assistance portal from the terminal device; and, electronically providing at least a first portion of the active list of selected products to at least a first merchant of the plurality of merchants for placing at least a first portion of the order.

Claim 2 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 wherein the step of electronically collecting a plurality of barcode numbers with a data collection device communicatively coupled to the terminal comprises: one of scanning a barcode symbol with a barcode scanner, speaking a barcode number into a digital voice recorder, keying-in a barcode number, digitally importing a barcode number, and scanning a RFID tag number with an RFID scanner.

Claim 3 (Canceled). The method of claim 2 wherein the data collection device can be activated a plurality of times to build the active list.

Claim 4 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: electronically providing a second portion of the active list of selected products to a second merchant of the plurality of merchants for placing a second portion of the order.

Claim 5 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: displaying the plurality of products on the terminal device; electronically selecting a first product offered by a first manufacture of the plurality of products displayed; electronically requesting a comparison of other products with the first product; and, displaying similar products offered by other

manufacturers to the first product.

Claim 6 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: displaying a plurality of products on the terminal device; electronically selecting a first product offered by a first manufacture of the plurality of products displayed; electronically requesting a comparison of other products with the first product; and, displaying similar products to the first product being offered by the first manufacture.

Claim 7 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: selecting a product displayed on the terminal device; and, providing a detailed description of the selected product from the shopper assistance portal to the terminal device.

Claim 8 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: electronically submitting a request for a search of a product to the shopper assistance portal; and, displaying products by the shopper assistance portal responsive to the requested search to the terminal device.

Claim 9 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 wherein the terminal device is a stand-alone device and wherein the step of electronically connecting to a shopper assistance portal using a terminal device comprises using the stand-alone device to connect to the shopper assistance portal over the Internet.

Claim 10 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 wherein the terminal device is a personal computer and wherein the step of electronically connecting to a shopper assistance portal using a terminal device comprises using the personal computer to connect to the shopper assistance portal over the Internet.

Claim 11 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 wherein the terminal device is a personal computer and wherein the step of electronically connecting to a shopper assistance portal using a terminal device comprises using the personal computer to connect to the shopper assistance portal over the direct distance dial telephone network.

Claim 12 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 wherein the terminal device is a

programmable web enabled cell phone and wherein the step of electronically connecting to a shopper assistance portal using a terminal device comprises using the programmable web enabled cell phone to connect to the shopper assistance portal over the Internet.

Claim 13 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 wherein the terminal device is a stand-alone device and wherein the step of electronically connecting to a shopper assistance portal using a terminal device comprises using the stand-alone device to connect to the shopper assistance portal over a direct distance dial telephone network.

Claim 14 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: providing the shopper assistance portal with a geographical location of placement of the order; and, displaying a list of merchants offering selected products in the potential order that service the location.

Claim 15 (Canceled). The method of claim 14 wherein the user of the terminal device provides the shopper assistance portal with an alternative geographical location.

Claim 16 (Canceled). The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of: sorting the list of merchants as to the number of products each listed merchant has of the potential order.

Claim 17 (Canceled). The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of: electronically completing purchase of a selected product from a listed merchant.

Claim 18 (Canceled). The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of: saving the active list on the terminal device.

Claim 19 (Canceled). A method for electronically providing product specific advertising to a prospective purchaser comprising the steps of: electronically receiving an active list of selected products by a shopper assistance portal from a terminal device; and, electronically transmitting to the terminal device a first advertisement from a merchant associated with the shopper assistance portal responsive to at least a first product from the active list of selected products.

Claim 20 (Canceled). The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of: electronically transmitting to the terminal device a second advertisement from the merchant associated with the shopper assistance portal responsive to a second product from the active list of selected products.

Claim 21 (Canceled). The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of: electronically receiving a list of products from the merchant by the shopper assistance portal; electronically receiving corresponding advertisements for the products in the list of products from the merchant by the shopper assistance portal; and, and electronically receiving corresponding URL addresses to the corresponding advertisements by the merchant to link prospective purchasers to the corresponding advertisements by the shopper assistance portal.

Claim 22 (Canceled). The method of claim 19 wherein the step of electronically transmitting to the terminal device a first advertisement from a merchant by the shopper assistance portal responsive to at least a first product from the active list of selected products comprises transmitting the first advertisement from a merchant that services the location selected by the purchaser using the terminal device.

Claim 23 (Canceled). The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of: searching the active list by the shopper assistance portal for products that match criteria set forth by a first merchant that services the location selected by the purchaser using the terminal device.

Claim 24 (Canceled). The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of: selecting an advertisement from the first merchant for transmission to the terminal device.

Claim 25 (Canceled). The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of: searching the active list by the shopper assistance portal for products that match criteria set forth by a second merchant that services a location of the purchaser using the terminal device.

Claim 26 (Canceled). The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of: selecting an advertisement from the second merchant for transmission to the terminal device.

Claim 27 (Canceled). The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of: receiving a

transmission from the terminal device disabling the shopper assistance portal from performing the step of electronically transmitting to the terminal device at least a first advertisement from a merchant by the shopper assistance portal responsive to at least a first product from the active list of selected products.

Claim 28 (Canceled). The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of: providing a link to a website maintained by the merchant through the first advertisement.

Claim 29 (Canceled). The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of: electronically receiving an order for a product identified in the first advertisement from the terminal device.

Claim 30 (Canceled). The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of: electronically receiving an order for a product identified in the second advertisement from the terminal device.

Claim 31 (new). An impartial electronic matchmaking method that introduces buyers to sellers of products and services that can be identified by barcode or RFID tag numbers in the form of individual digital merchandise codes (IDMC), where the nucleus of the system is a software application that resides on a server attached to the Internet, referred to as the Shopper Assistant Portal (SAP), working in conjunction with a software application that can be compiled to run on any terminal-device that is capable of accessing the Internet directly or indirectly, with the users of the terminal-devices being referred to as Shoppers, and software that resides on servers that are also connected to the Internet belonging to individual Merchants of products and/or services.

Claim 32 (new) The Shoppers of Claim 31 are registered users who choose the geographical area they want to shop in.

Claim 33 (new) The Merchants of Claim 31 are registered members who choose the geographical area they want to cater-to.

Claim 34 (new) The said Shopper of Claim 31 electronically collecting into memory

storage one or a plurality of desired IDMC numbers, in one or several sessions, that are saved into a database utilizing one or more of the established methods of data collection devices, such as; scanning a barcode symbol with any capable barcode scanner, and/or by speaking the barcode number into a digital recording device, and/or by keying-in the barcode number and/or digitally importing one or more barcode numbers, and/or scanning a RFID tags with a RFID reader, where the devices that can be an intricate part of the terminal-device or interfaced to the terminal-device, and where multiple collections of the same ID would increment the Quantity field instead of creating a new record.

Claim 35 (new) Upon the said Shopper's command of Claim 31, electronically connecting the terminal-device to the Shopper Assistant Portal, the Shopper Assistant Portal maintaining information relating to all products and/or services, and the IDMC of products and/or services offered by the plurality of merchants.

Claim 36 (new) Upon the said Shopper's command of Claim 31, establishing an Active-List by the said Shopper selecting and uploading one of the possible pluralities of IDMC databases of desired products and/or services from the terminal-device to the Shopper Assistant Portal, where software on the Shopper Assistant Portal processes the said Active-List by matching each record in the said Active-List with the associated data of each product or service. thereby updating the said Active-List with the current data that consist of at least the basic description and downloading the updated version of the said Active-List to the terminal-device to be examined and possibly modified by the said Shopper.

Claim 37 (new) At the said Shopper's command of Claim 31 to Shop, the said Active-List of Claim 36 is uploaded to the Shopper Assistant Portal, where software on the Shopper Assistant Portal processes the said Active-List by matching each record in the said Active-List where the Quantity field is greater than zero, with Merchants that offer the products or services and cater-to the area determined by the said Shopper, creating a database file that contains every Merchant that caters to the said Shopper's specified area and offer one or more of the products and/or services in the said Active-List, where the said database file is referred to as a List of Merchant, then downloading the said List of Merchant to the terminal-device from the Shopper Assistant Portal and displaying at least the name of one Merchant in the said List of Merchant on the terminal-device to be examined by the said Shopper.

Claim 38 (new) At the said Shopper's command of selecting one of the Merchants from the said List of Merchant of Claim 37, in so doing, initiating software on the said Shopper's terminal-device, that notifies the Shopper Assistant Portal of the said Shopper's selection, where software on the Shopper Assistant Portal processes the said Shopper's request by generating a data-package that includes among other data, the said Active-List of Claim 36, then electronically redirects the said Shopper and the said data-package, to a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) that has been specified by the selected Merchant.

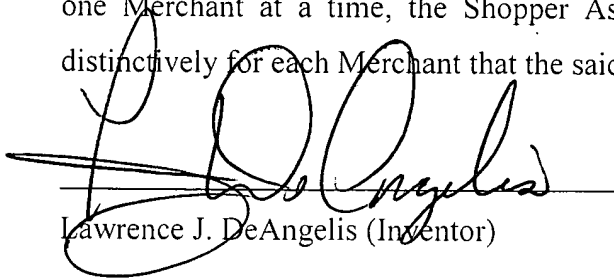
Claim 39 (new) Software on the said selected Merchant's server of Claim 38, processes the said data-package of Claim 38, and establishes a session with the said Shopper, whereby the said Shopper interacts directly with said Merchant through a user interface designed and maintained by the said Merchant, whereby the said Shopper may purchase or order one or more of the products and/or services from the said Merchant utilizing a point-of-sale system specified by the said Merchant.

Claim 40 (new) Upon the termination of the said session between the said Shopper and the said Merchant of Claim 39, software on the said Merchant's server modifies the said Active-List by adjusting the Quantity field(s) in accordance with the said session, then electronically sends a data-package that includes among other data, the said modified Active-List, to the Shopper Assistant Portal, where the said Active-List is processed on the Shopper Assistant Portal to determine if there are any records where the Quantity field is greater than zero.

Claim 41 (new) If the said Active-List of Claim 40, contains any records where the Quantity field is greater than zero, software on the Shopper Assistant Portal processes the said Active-List by matching each record where the Quantity field is greater than zero with every Merchant that offers the product or service and caters to the area determined by the said Shopper, creating a new List of Merchant, then downloading to the said Shopper's terminal-device, the said Active-List, and the said new List of Merchant, where the said Shopper could select another Merchant, or Function that includes Quitting; however, if the said Active-List contains no records where the Quantity field is greater than zero, the Shopper Assistant Portal will download the said Active-List and a message to be displayed on the said Shopper's terminal-device notifying the said Shopper that the said Active-List contains no records where the

Quantity field is greater than zero, giving the said Shopper the option to select another Function that includes Quitting.

Claim 42 (new). When the said Shopper of Claim 38 initiates a session with more than one Merchant at a time, the Shopper Assistant Portal saves a copy of the said Active-List distinctively for each Merchant that the said Shopper is in session with.



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